26th November 1928]

Action taken on the recommendations of the Indian Historical Records Commission.

*619-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what is the position of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India Records Department, in relation to the Provincial Record office and its Curator;

(b) in what manner the Indian Historical Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India regulate the work and activities of the Madras Record office;

(c) whether any work has been undertaken by the Madras Record office at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission or the Government of India Record Department;

(d) what progress has been made in the direction of those items of work; and

(e) what action, if any, has been taken by the Madras Government in pursuance of Resolution VII of the Indian Historical Records Commission passed at its Lahore Session in 1920 regarding the linking of the University with the Record office?

A.—(a) The Curator of the Madras Record office is ex-officio a member of the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India Records Department is ex-officio Secretary to the Commission. There is no other connexion.

(b) The Indian Historical Records Commission and the Record-keeper of the Government of India do not regulate the work and activities of the Madras Record office in any way.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The resolution in question was brought to the notice of the University of Madras.

Preservation of records in the Madras Record office.

*619-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to preserve the records in the Madras Record office in tact against the destructive action of tropical heat on the records; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the desirability of appointing a local committee to advise and help the Record office in the matter of securing greater access by the public to these records?

A.—(a) The buildings are specially designed to protect the records from damp and at the same time expose them to diffused light and fresh air. The walls are provided with glazed tiles and the records are kept in open iron racks far removed from the walls. The fluted glass windows admit diffused light; while free flow of air is ensured by providing electric fans and cowle ventilators.